CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A method for processing data in a media player, said method comprising:

generating a request for metadata from a metadata provider, said requested metadata to be associated with media content adapted for rendering by the media player;

receiving return metadata from the metadata provider in response to the request for metadata; and

receiving a trustworthiness rating corresponding to the return metadata.

2. The method of claim 1, further comprising replacing an existing metadata state with the received return metadata based on the received trustworthiness rating.

3. The method of claim 1, wherein the return metadata comprises metadata determined by the metadata provider to be associated with the media content.

4. The method of claim 1, wherein the received trustworthiness rating represents a degree of relevance of the return metadata to the media content.

5. The method of claim 1, wherein the received trustworthiness rating comprises a percentage.

6. The method of claim 1, further comprising prompting a user to review the return metadata based on the received trustworthiness rating.

7. The method of claim 1, further comprising performing at least one of the following based on the received trustworthiness rating: storing the return metadata with the media content, storing the received trustworthiness rating with the media content, and prompting a user to accept the return metadata.

8. The method of claim 1, wherein receiving the trustworthiness rating comprises:

receiving a plurality of trustworthiness ratings; and

collectively displaying the received plurality of trustworthiness ratings to a user.

9. The method of claim 1, wherein the received trustworthiness rating indicates that the return metadata matches the requested metadata, and further comprising storing the return metadata with the media content without intervention from a user.

10. The method of claim 1, wherein the received trustworthiness rating indicates that the return metadata may not match the requested metadata, and further comprising prompting the user to accept or reject the return metadata.

11. The method of claim 1, further comprising receiving one or more reconciliation rules from the user, said reconciliation rules specifying an action to perform in response to the received trustworthiness rating.

12. One or more computer-readable media having computer-executable instructions for performing the method of claim 1.

13. A method of managing a plurality of metadata states, each of said metadata states comprising one or more items of metadata associated with media content rendered by a media player, said method comprising:

receiving a request from a user to replace one metadata state with another metadata state; and

replacing each set of metadata items associated with the one metadata state with a corresponding set of metadata items associated with the other metadata state in response to the received request.

14. The method of claim 13, wherein each item of metadata comprises a value specific to the media content.

15. The method of claim 13, further comprising receiving the items of metadata associated with the other metadata state from a metadata provider in response to an update request, said metadata provider providing the items of metadata associated with the other metadata state that are determined to be relevant to the media content.

16. The method of claim 15, further comprising displaying the received items of metadata to the user for review.

17. The method of claim 15, further comprising storing the received items of metadata in a file storing the media content.

18. The method of claim 15, wherein prior to receiving the request from the user, further comprising:

receiving a trustworthiness rating corresponding to the received items of metadata; and

replacing each set of metadata items associated with the one metadata state with a corresponding set of metadata items from the received items of metadata in response to the received trustworthiness rating.

19. The method of claim 13, wherein the items of metadata associated with the one metadata state are stored in a file along with the media content.

20. The method of claim 13, further comprising maintaining a history data structure in the file, said history data structure storing the other metadata state.

21. The method of claim 20, wherein replacing each set of metadata items comprises replacing each set of metadata items associated with the one metadata state with a corresponding set of metadata items stored in the history data structure.

22. The method of claim 20, wherein the history data structure defines an empty metadata state for the media content and wherein replacing each set of metadata items comprises replacing each set of metadata items associated with the one metadata state with a null value from the empty metadata state.

23. The method of claim 13, wherein replacing each set of metadata items comprises replacing a single item of metadata.

24. The method of claim 13, wherein the other metadata state lacks metadata, and wherein replacing each set of metadata items comprises removing all metadata from the media content.

25. One or more computer-readable media having computer-executable instructions for performing the method of claim 13.

26. A system comprising one or more computer-readable media having computer-executable components for managing one or more items of metadata associated with media content rendered by a media player, said components comprising:

a communications component for receiving metadata associated with the media content, said communications component further receiving a trustworthiness rating associated with the received metadata; and

an authoring module for selectively applying the received metadata to the media content based on a trustworthiness rating received via the communications component.

27. The system of claim 26, wherein the authoring module applies the received metadata by replacing each item of metadata associated with one metadata state with a corresponding item of the received metadata associated with another metadata state.

28. The system of claim 26, wherein the communications component further receives a request from a user to store the received metadata with the media content.

29. The system of claim 26, further comprising a user interface component for displaying, to a user for review based on the received trustworthiness rating, the metadata received via the communications component.

30. The system of claim 26, further comprising a rollback module for maintaining a history data structure in the file, said history data structure storing the received metadata along with a previous metadata state associated with the media content.

31. The system of claim 30, wherein the authoring module replaces each item of metadata associated with one metadata state with a corresponding item of metadata from another metadata state maintained in the history data structure by the rollback module.

32. The system of claim 30, wherein the history data structure defines an empty metadata state for the media content and wherein the authoring module replaces each item of metadata associated with the one metadata state with a null value from the empty metadata state.

33. A method of updating metadata in a computer system having a user interface including a display and being responsive to a user interface selection device, said method comprising:

    receiving metadata corresponding to media content from a metadata provider;

    displaying the received metadata to the user on the display;

    receiving a selection request from the user via the user interface selection device, said selection request specifying acceptance or rejection of the displayed metadata; and

    performing an action on the displayed metadata in response to the received selection request.

34. The method of claim 33, wherein the selection request specifies rejection of the received metadata, and wherein the selection request further comprises a request from the user to edit the received metadata.

35. The method of claim 33, wherein the selection request specifies rejection of the received metadata, and wherein the selection request further comprises a request from the user to restore previously received metadata.

36. The method of claim 33, wherein the selection request specifies rejection of the received metadata, and wherein the selection request further comprises a request from the user to discard the received metadata.

37. The method of claim 33, wherein the selection request specifies rejection of the received metadata, and wherein the selection request further comprises a request from the user to search for additional metadata for the media content.

38. The method of claim 33, wherein the selection request specifies acceptance of the received metadata, and wherein the selection request further comprises a request from the user to apply the received metadata by storing the received metadata with the media content.

39. The method of claim 33, further comprising storing the received metadata in a cache.

40. The method of claim 33, further comprising:
receiving a trustworthiness rating from the metadata provider; and
displaying the received trustworthiness rating to the user on the display.

41. The method of claim 40, further comprising displaying one or more reconciliation rules on the display for selection by the user via the user interface selection device, each of said reconciliation rules specifying an action to perform in response to the received trustworthiness rating.

42. One or more computer-readable media having computer-executable instructions for performing the method of claim 33.

43. A user interface enabling a user to select one of a plurality of values associated with a metadata item, said metadata item being associated with media content, said user interface comprising:

one or more data fields, each of said data fields displaying a metadata value associated with the metadata item;

a selection field for receiving a command from a user, said command selecting one or more of the metadata values from the data fields for association with the metadata item and storage with the media content; and

a query field for receiving a search term from the user, said search term describing the media content and enabling determination of another metadata value relevant to the media item based on the received search term.

44. The user interface of claim 43, wherein at least one of the metadata values in the plurality of data fields is selected automatically based on a trustworthiness rating associated with the at least one metadata value.

45. The user interface of claim 43, wherein the selection field comprises a plurality of checkboxes, each of said checkboxes being associated with one of the plurality of data fields.

46. The user interface of claim 43, wherein the selection field comprises a button that indicates acceptance of the selected metadata value.

47. The user interface of claim 43, wherein the metadata item comprises at least one of the following: an album title, an artist name, a song title, a genre, a composer name, a track number, a studio, a director, and a rating.

48. The user interface of claim 43, further comprising a rating field displaying a trustworthiness rating associated with the metadata value for each of the data fields.

49. The user interface of claim 48, further comprising a reconciliation field for displaying one or more reconciliation rules for selection by the user, each of said reconciliation rules specifying an action to perform in response to the trustworthiness rating displayed in the rating field.

50. The user interface of claim 43, wherein the user interface comprises a display device.

51. A computer-readable medium having storing thereon a data structure representing a media content file, said data structure comprising:

a data field storing media content for rendering by a media player; and

a history field storing a plurality of metadata states for the media content, each of said metadata states comprising one or more items of metadata associated with the media content.

52. The computer-readable medium of claim 51, wherein the history field stores an existing metadata state and an updated metadata state.

53. The computer-readable medium of claim 51, wherein the history field stores an empty metadata state in which each of the items of metadata has a null value associated therewith.